

## CLAIMS

I Claim:

1           1. A system comprising:  
2           office equipment that includes a display, a display being used by the  
3 office equipment to provide status as to operation of the office equipment;  
4           a computing system, in communication with the office equipment, the  
5 computing system for obtaining information unrelated to operation of the  
6 office equipment, and for causing the office equipment to display the  
7 information in place of a status message.

1           2. A system as in claim 1 wherein the office equipment is at least one of  
2 the following:  
3           a printer;  
4           a scanner;  
5           a fax machine;  
6           a telephone; and,  
7           a telephone answering machine.

1           3. A system as in claim 1 wherein the computing system obtains  
2 information from a site on a network.

1 4. A system as in claim 1 wherein the computing system obtains  
2 information from an internet site.

1 5. A system as in claim 1 wherein the computing system obtains  
2 information from another computing system which requests display of the  
3 information.

1 6. A method comprising:

2 (a) obtaining, by a computing system, information unrelated to  
3 operation of office equipment;

4 (b) generating, by the computing system, instructions to the office  
5 equipment to display the information;

6 (c) sending the instructions from the computing system to the office  
7 equipment; and,

8 (d) displaying the information by the office equipment that on a display  
9 used by the office equipment to provide status as to operation of the office  
10 equipment, the information being displayed in place of a status message.

1 7. A method as in claim 6 wherein in step (a) the office equipment is at  
2 least one of the following:

3 a printer;

4 a scanner;

5 a fax machine;  
6 a telephone; and,  
7 a telephone answering machine.

1 8. A method as in claim 6 wherein in step (a) the computing system  
2 obtains information from a site on a network.

1 9. A method as in claim 6 wherein in step (a) the computing system  
2 obtains information from an internet site.

1 10. A method as in claim 6 wherein in step (a) the computing system  
2 obtains information from another computing system which requests display of  
3 the information.

1 11. A computing system comprising:  
2 first communication means for obtaining information unrelated to  
3 operation of office equipment;  
4 processing means for translating the information into instructions to  
5 the office equipment to display the information on a display used by the office  
6 equipment to provide status as to operation of the office equipment, wherein  
7 the instructions instruct the office equipment to display the information in  
8 place of a status message; and,

9 second communication means for sending the instructions from the  
10 computing system to the office equipment.

1 12. A computing system as in claim 11 wherein the office equipment is  
2 at least one of the following:

3 a printer;

4 a scanner;

5 a fax machine;

6 a telephone; and,

7 a telephone answering machine.

1 13. A computing system as in claim 11 wherein the first connection  
2 means provides connection of the computing system to a site on a network.

1 14. A computing system as in claim 11 wherein the first connection  
2 means provides connection of the computing system to an internet site.

1 15. A computing system as in claim 11 wherein the first connection  
2 means provides connection of the computing system to another computing  
3 system which requests display of the information.